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SEGA
SONIC UNIVERSE™
SPARK OF LIFE
4
OF 4
WORLDS UNITE IN 2
BATTLE FOR THE DIGITAL REALM!
SONIC UNIVERSE | 74

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Nicole, the artificial intelligence, is finally confronted by a mysterious being ...

SONIC UNIVERSE™

CHARACTER SELECT

PRINCESS SALLY ACORN
FREEDOM FIGHTER LEADER

NICOLE THE HOLO-LYNX
ADVANCED A.I.

DR. ELLIDY
NICOLE'S CREATOR

PHAGE
ALL-CONSUMING A.I.

PREVIOUSLY...

A VICIOUS VIRUS

Phage, Dr. Eggman's rogue A.I., is out to steal the mysterious Red Star Rings and a nearby Chaos Emerald from Isolated Island. She's taken over Dr. Ellidy's computer system, and now the island is overrun by vicious robots!

With Nicole at Phage's mercy, Princess Sally uses the Digitizer to access the system and attempt to stop the threat at its source -- before it's too late...

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SPARK OF LIFE

PART FOUR

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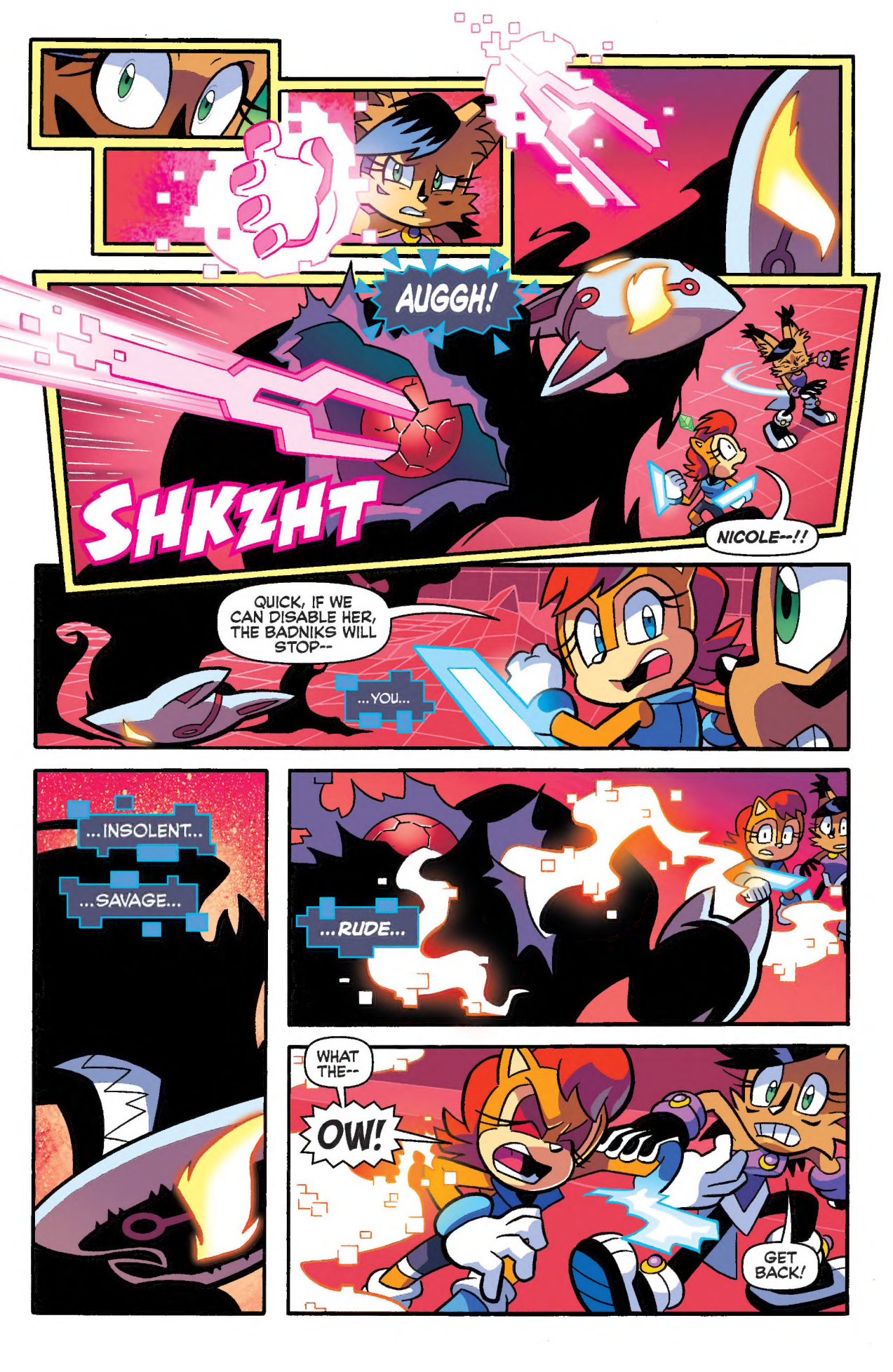
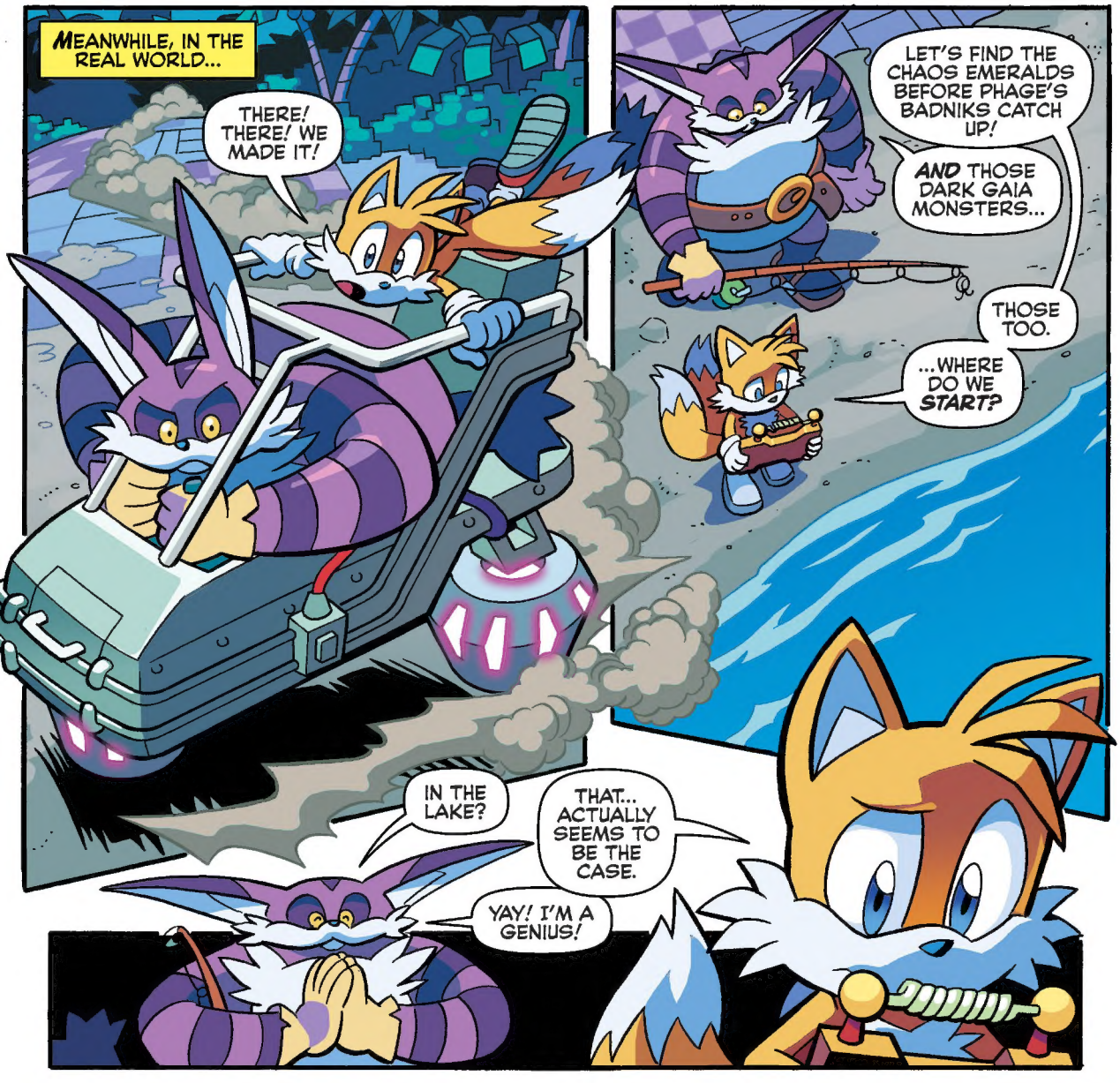
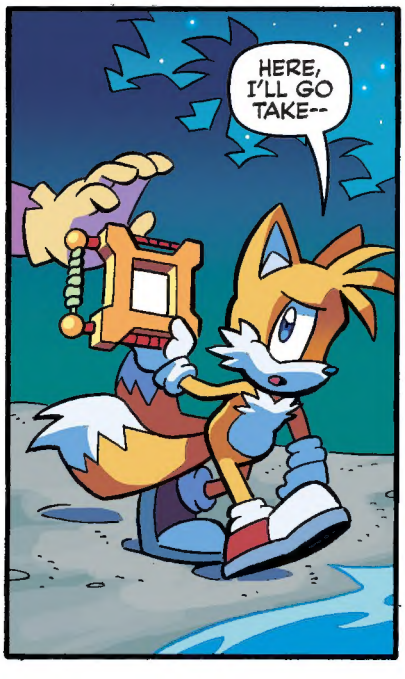

AUGGH!
SHKZHT
NICOLE--!!
QUICK, IF WE CAN DISABLE HER, THE BADNIKS WILL STOP--
...YOU...
...INSOLENT...
...SAVAGE...
...RUDE...
WHAT THE--
OW!
GET BACK!

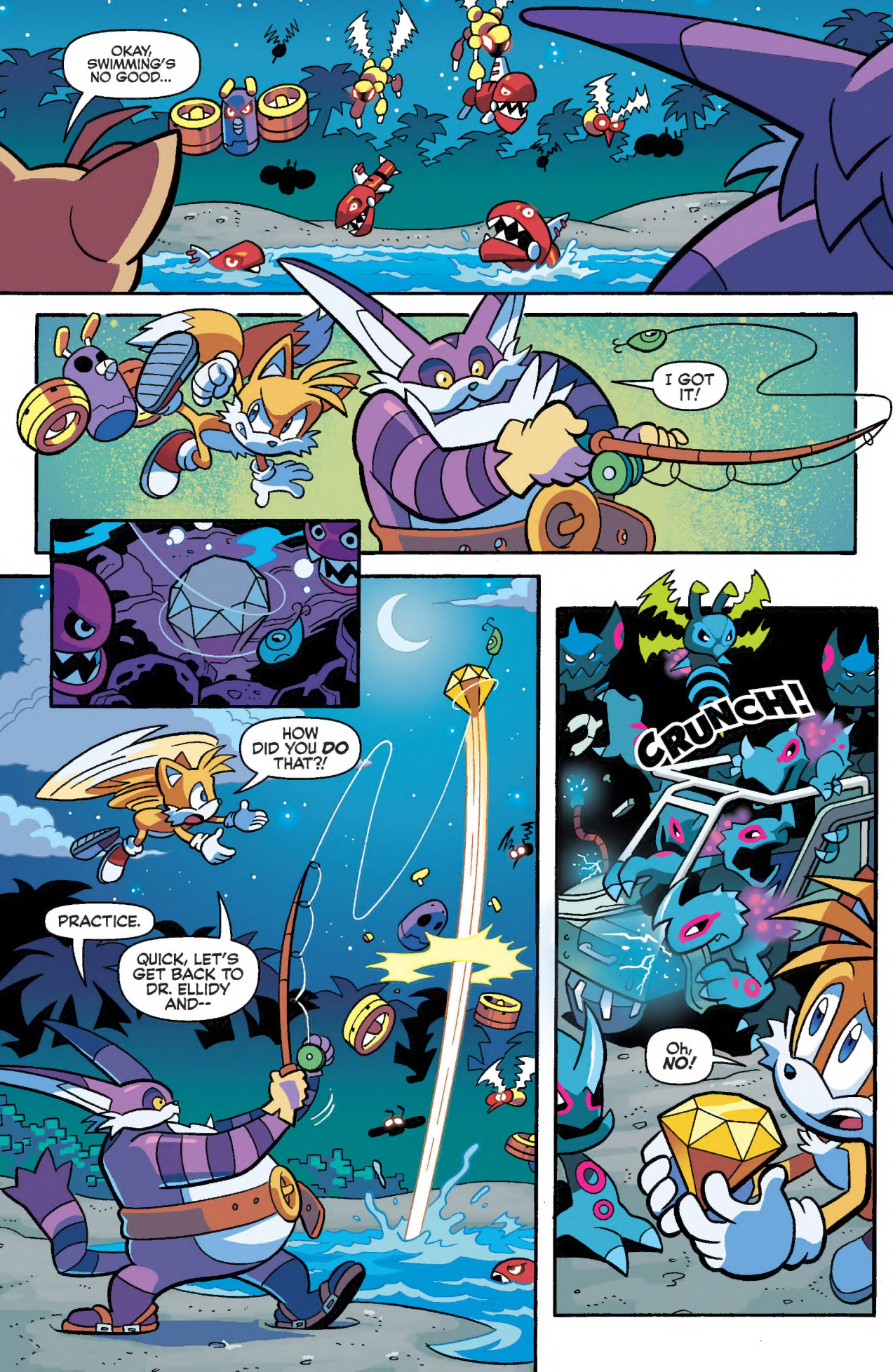
I'LL TEAR YOU DOWN TO THE LAST BIT OF CODING!!
GRRRRAAAAAAAAUUUUGH!!
...SO DID NOT SEE THIS COMING...
OKAY, SPLIT UP! ESCAPE TO YOUR COMPUTER! I'LL GET OUT VIA THE DIGITIZER, AND WE'LL SHUT EVERY-THING DOWN AND TAKE THIS MONSTER WITH IT!
NICOLE?? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

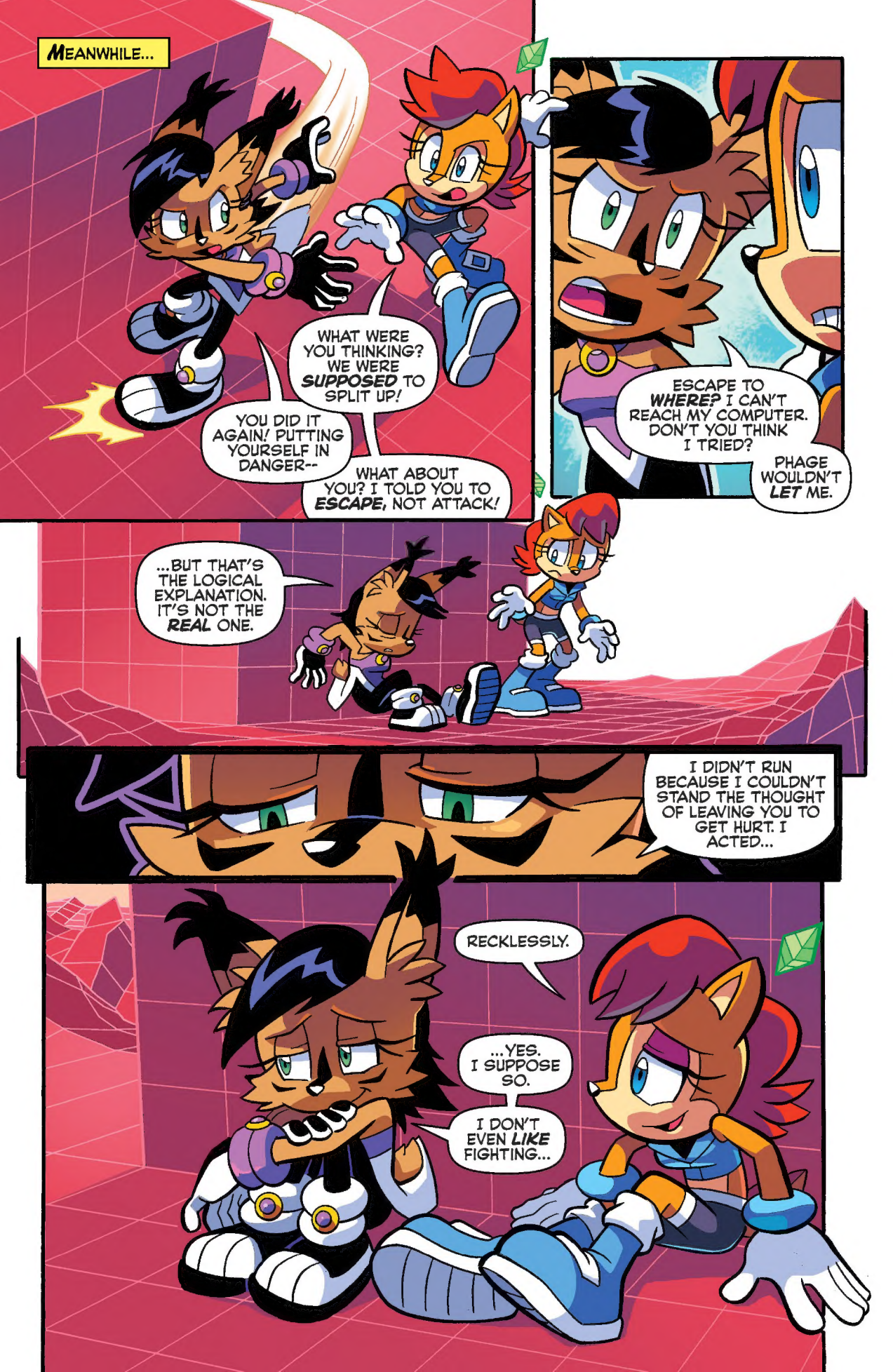

MEANWHILE, IN THE REAL WORLD...
THERE! THERE! WE MADE IT!
LET'S FIND THE CHAOS EMERALDS BEFORE PHAGE'S BADNIKS CATCH UP!
AND THOSE DARK GAIA MONSTERS...
THOSE TOO.
...WHERE DO WE START?
IN THE LAKE?
THAT... ACTUALLY SEEMS TO BE THE CASE.
YAY! I'M A GENIUS!

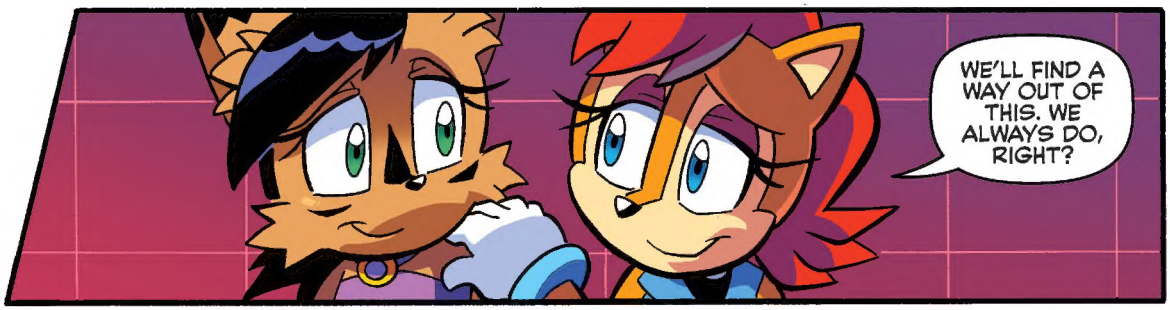

HERE, I'LL GO TAKE--

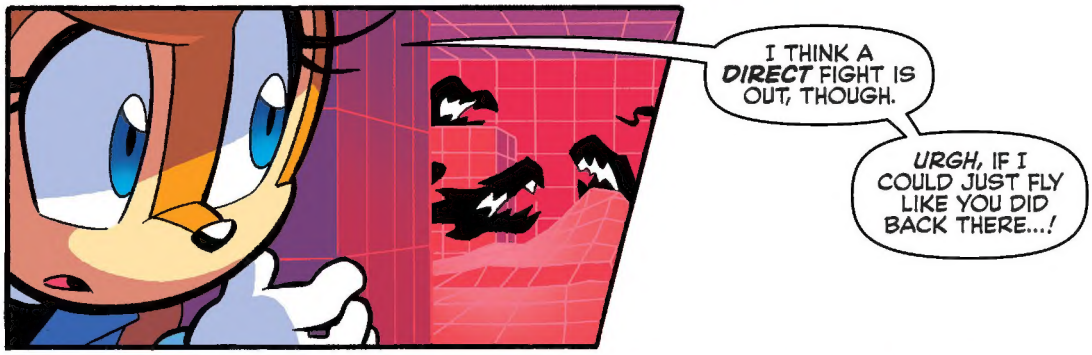
Huh?!

GAH!


OKAY, SWIMMING'S NO GOOD...
I GOT IT!
HOW DID YOU DO THAT?!
PRACTICE.
QUICK, LET'S GET BACK TO DR. ELLIDY AND--
CRUNCH!
Oh, NO!

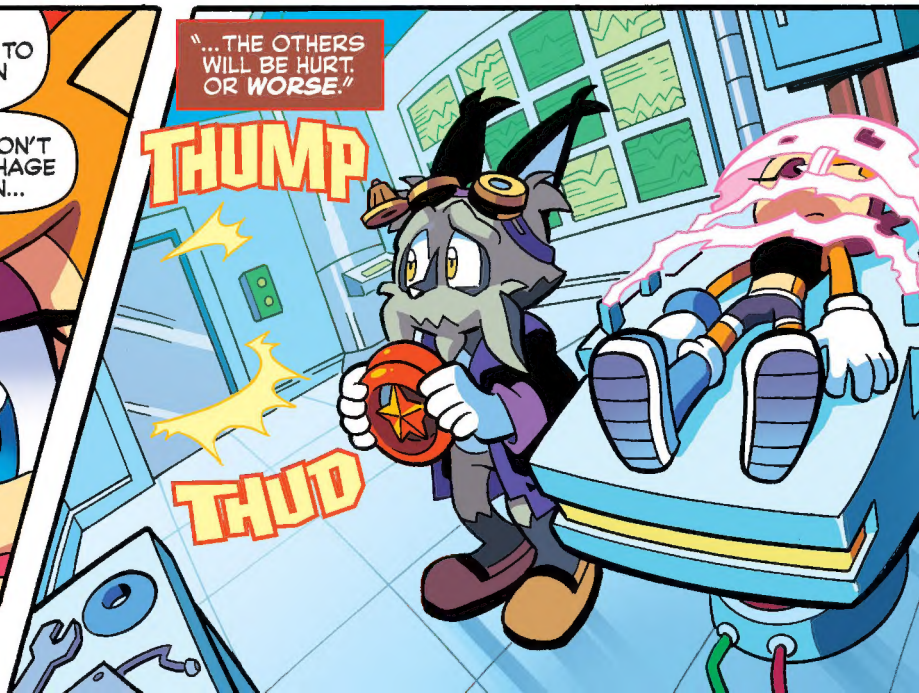

MEANWHILE...
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING? WE WERE SUPPOSED TO SPLIT UP!
YOU DID IT AGAIN! PUTTING YOURSELF IN DANGER--
WHAT ABOUT YOU? I TOLD YOU TO ESCAPE, NOT ATTACK!
ESCAPE TO WHERE? I CAN'T REACH MY COMPUTER. DON'T YOU THINK I TRIED?
PHAGE WOULDN'T LET ME.
...BUT THAT'S THE LOGICAL EXPLANATION. IT'S NOT THE REAL ONE.
I DIDN'T RUN BECAUSE I COULDN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF LEAVING YOU TO GET HURT. I ACTED...
RECKLESSLY.
...YES. I SUPPOSE SO.
I DON'T EVEN LIKE FIGHTING...


WE'LL FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS. WE ALWAYS DO, RIGHT?

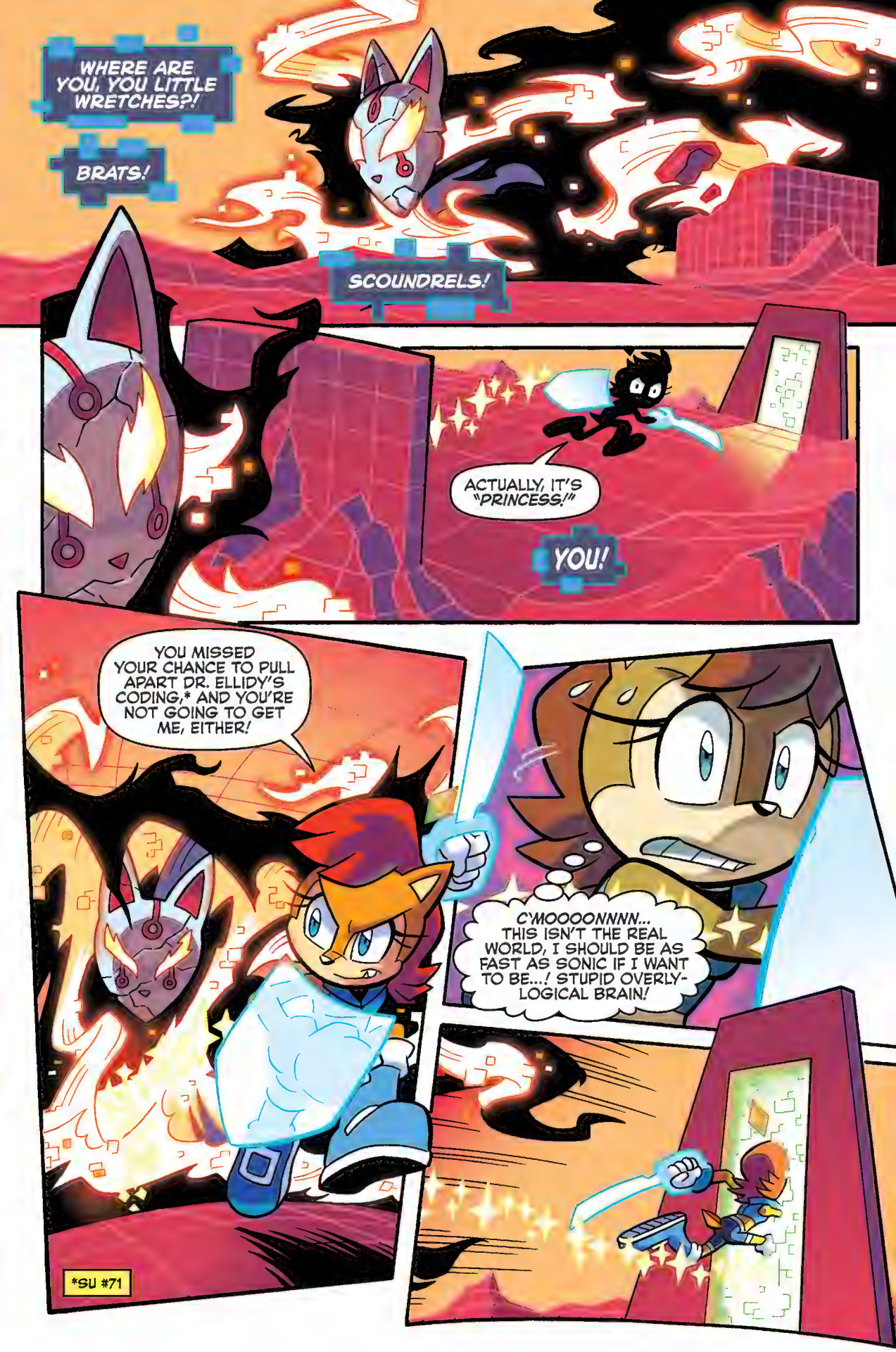

I THINK A *DIRECT* FIGHT IS OUT, THOUGH.
URGH, IF I COULD JUST FLY LIKE YOU DID BACK THERE...!

SALLY, THE DIGITIZER INTERPRETS THE SYSTEM IN A WAY THAT YOUR MIND CAN UNDERSTAND.
IN HERE, YOU *COULD* FLY, BUT YOU DON'T *BELIEVE* YOU SHOULD BE *ABLE* TO DO SO.
IT'S A PSYCHO-LOGICAL BLOCK.

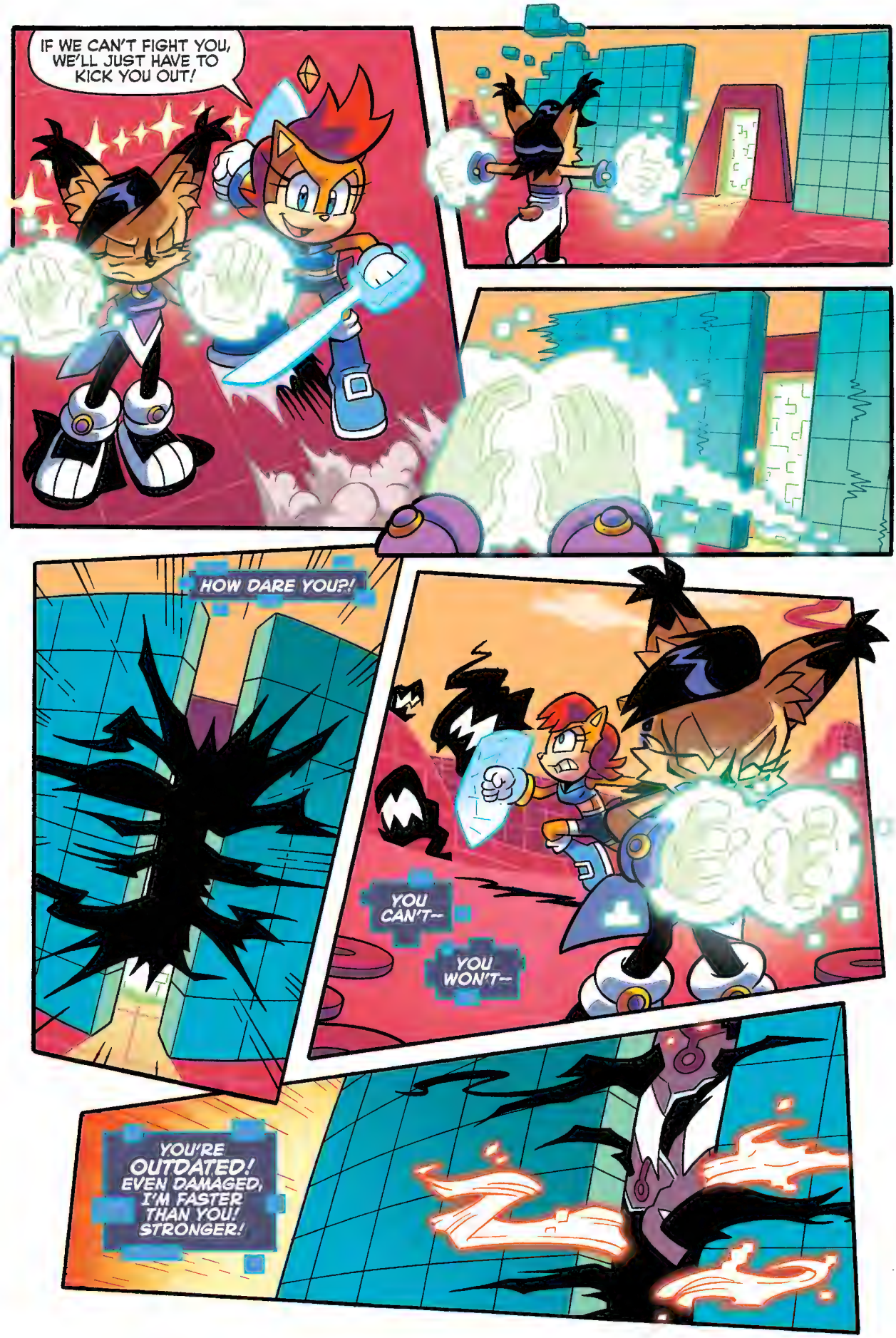
GREAT. I DON'T THINK WE HAVE TIME TO RETRAIN MY BRAIN LIKE THAT.
IF WE DON'T STOP PHAGE SOON...


"...THE OTHERS WILL BE HURT. OR *WORSE*."
THUMP
THUD

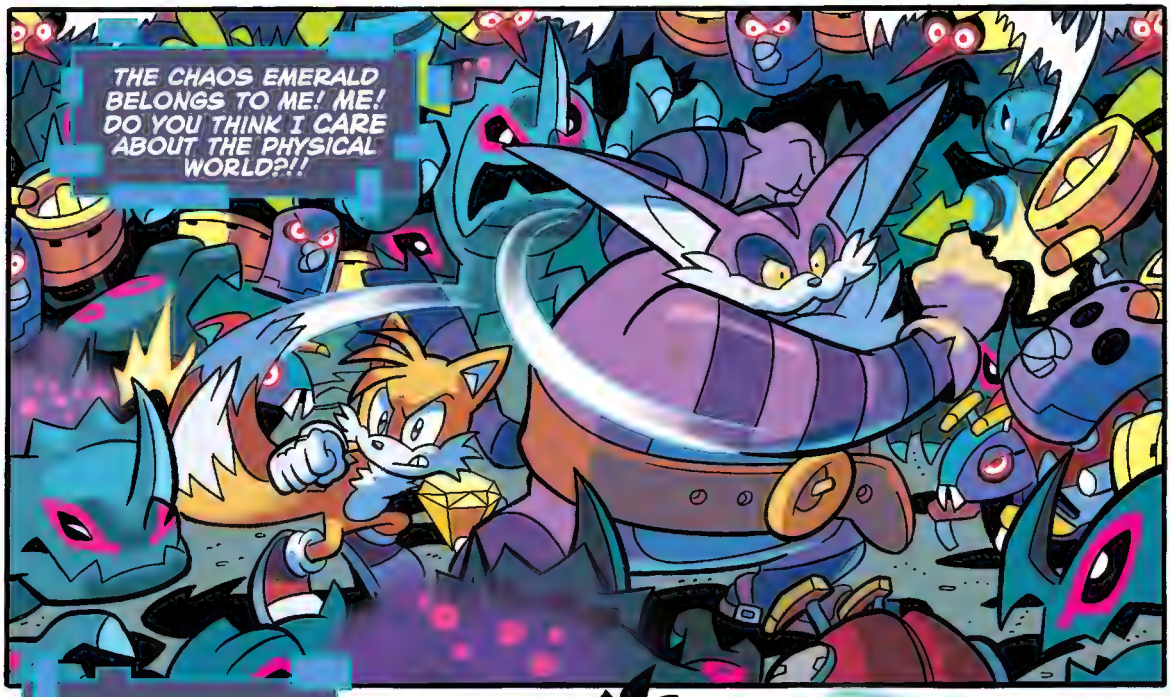
OKAY, SO PHAGE HAS PREVENTED EITHER OF US FROM GETTING OUT THE WAY WE CAME IN...WHAT ABOUT THE DIGITAL WORLD?
IT'S STILL CONNECTED TO THIS SYSTEM, BUT TO WHAT END? YOU CAN'T SURVIVE IN ANY DIGITAL WORLD INDEFINITELY, AND PHAGE WILL JUST FOLLOW US ANYWAY.
NOT "US." ME.
YOU CAN'T--!
I'M NOT! TRUST ME. EARLIER, TAILS WAS PLAYING WITH SOMETHING IN THE LAB... ONE OF DR. ELLIDY'S RING INVENTIONS...
I NEED YOU TO RECREATE IT HERE FOR US.
I HAVE A PLAN.


WHERE ARE YOU, YOU LITTLE WRETCHES?!
BRATS!
SCOUNDRELS!
ACTUALLY, IT'S "PRINCESS!"
YOU!
YOU MISSED YOUR CHANCE TO PULL APART DR. ELLIDY'S CODING,* AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET ME, EITHER!
C'MOOOONNNN... THIS ISN'T THE REAL WORLD, I SHOULD BE AS FAST AS SONIC IF I WANT TO BE...! STUPID OVERLY-LOGICAL BRAIN!
*SU #71

Oh, WHOA!
WHAT NOW, PRINCESS?!
YOU COULDN'T STOP ME IN THE DOCTOR'S SYSTEM! YOU THINK YOU HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST ME HERE?!
NOT AT ALL.
NICOLE!
VWOOSH


IF WE CAN'T FIGHT YOU, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO KICK YOU OUT!
HOW DARE YOU?!
YOU CAN'T--
YOU WON'T--
YOU'RE OUTDATED! EVEN DAMAGED, I'M FASTER THAN YOU! STRONGER!

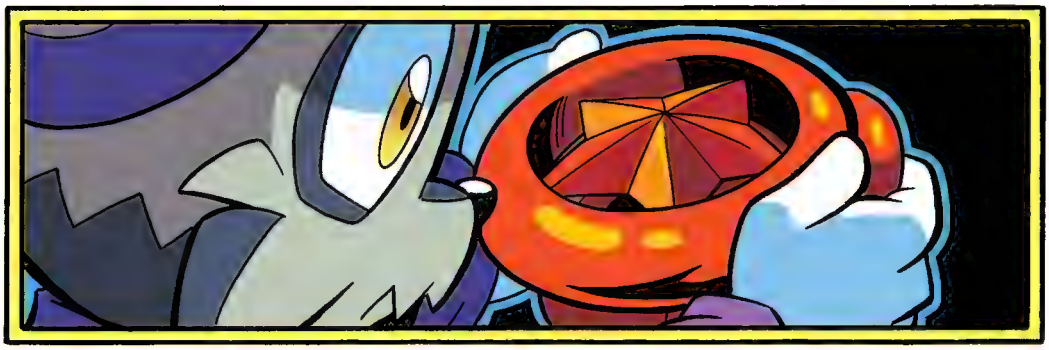
YOU CAN'T STOP ME! THE RINGS! THE RESEARCH! IT'S ALL MINE!


THE CHAOS EMERALD BELONGS TO ME! ME! DO YOU THINK I CARE ABOUT THE PHYSICAL WORLD?!!

IF I DON'T HAVE SOMETHING WORTHY TO BRING BACK, DR. EGGMAN WILL NEVER FORGIVE ME FOR MY PAST MISTAKES!
SO...
STOP...
INTERFERING!

KRASH
DIE
CEASE
EXPIRE
C'MON, NICOLE... YOU CAN DO IT...

Oh, NO... NO, NO, NO...

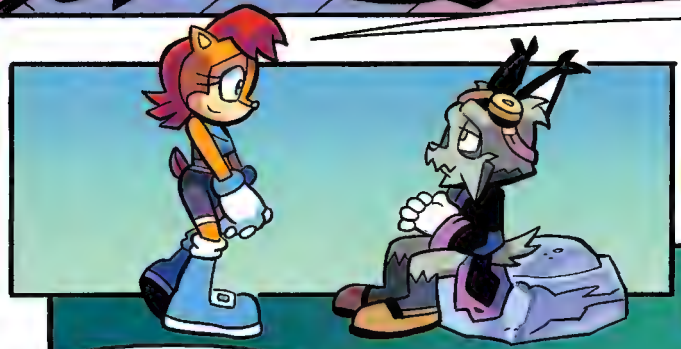


PING
VRRRRMMMMMM

Oh.
KZZT
KZZT
KZZT
OVERCLOCKED NICOLE
THAT POWER... THAT RED STAR RING...! THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE MINE!!
VWOOOSH
NO. IT'S NOT.
AND YOU'RE NOT WELCOME HERE.
NOW...
KA-CHUNG
GET.
OUT!

POMF
RESTORED
THREAT PURGED SYSTEM RESTORED
NICOLE, THAT WAS AMAZING! I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT!
I...I ONLY SHUT HER OUT OF THIS SYSTEM. PHAGE IS WEAKENED, BUT SHE'S STILL OUT THERE.
STILL... I DON'T THINK SHE'LL BE COMING BACK ANY TIME SOON.
DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT. YOU SAVED US ALL!
AFTER YOU SAVED ME.

THE NEXT DAY...
GOT A MESSAGE FROM ROTOR! LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO CATCH UP TO THEM IN APOTOS.*
IN A PATOS? INSTEAD OF IN THE PLANE?
"APOTOS." ONE WORD.
IT'S A PLACE.
Oh.
*SEE SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #272, COMING SOON!



WELL, WE'RE ABOUT TO HEAD OUT.
THANKS AGAIN FOR GIVING US ONE OF THE RED STAR RINGS. WHEN I SAID NICOLE MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE ONE,** I DIDN'T THINK SHE'D END UP SAVING US WITH IT!
**SU #72
I'M SURE YOU'LL PUT IT TO GOOD USE, SAVING THE WORLD AND ALL...
...Heh...IMAGINE, A CHAOS EMERALD--HERE--RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE. AND I COULDN'T TELL WHY THE RED STAR RINGS WERE FORMING...MAYBE I OUGHT TO RETIRE FOR GOOD!

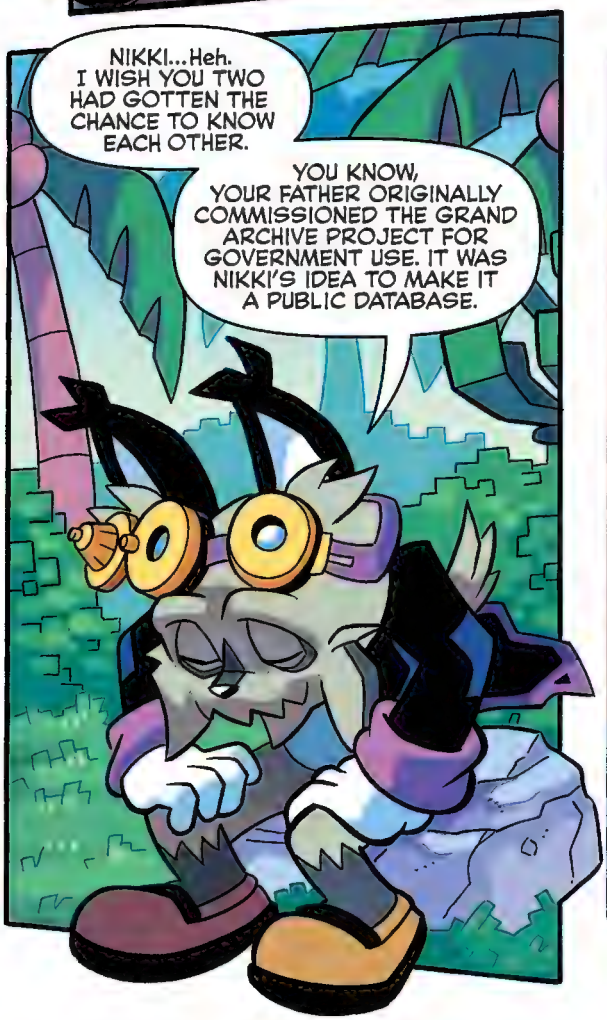
WELL, I GUESS I CAN'T TELL YOU NOT TO DO ANYTHING RISKY, SO I'LL JUST WISH YOU GOOD LUCK. SAY HEY TO YOUR DAD FOR ME.
I WILL.

AND, PRINCESS... ONE MORE THING...

THE THINGS I SAID LAST NIGHT... AGAIN, I...
LIKE I SAID, FORGET IT. WE WEREN'T IN OUR RIGHT MINDS.

STILL... DARK GAIA'S INFLUENCE OR NOT, YOU WERE RIGHT. I *HAVEN'T* BEEN FAIR TO NICOLE.

THEN YOU SHOULD BE SAYING THAT TO HER, NOT TO ME.
LOOK, I'M NOT SAYING NICOLE COULD EVER REPLACE YOUR DAUGHTER, REPLACE *NIKKI*, IN YOUR HEART, BUT...


NIKKI...Heh. I WISH YOU TWO HAD GOTTEN THE CHANCE TO KNOW EACH OTHER.
YOU KNOW, YOUR FATHER ORIGINALLY COMMISSIONED THE GRAND ARCHIVE PROJECT FOR GOVERNMENT USE. IT WAS NIKKI'S IDEA TO MAKE IT A PUBLIC DATABASE.

I'M SORRY, PRINCESS. WITH NICOLE...I JUST NEED MORE TIME TO THINK.
SALLY? WE'RE READY TO GO.

I'M SORRY, I'VE GOT TO SAY SOMETHING.
NICOLE--
I ALREADY KNOW.
WHAT?
ABOUT DR. ELLIDY'S DAUGHTER...NIKKI. ABOUT...WHY I WAS CREATED.
WHEN I WAS HIDING FROM PHAGE, I FOUND SEVERAL OLD FILES AND...
NICOLE, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT THAT SHE DIDN'T MAKE IT. YOU WEREN'T EVEN...YOU THEN.
I KNOW. BUT I WAS CREATED BECAUSE DR. ELLIDY WAS TRYING TO SAVE HIS DAUGHTER'S LIFE...HOPING THAT IF HER BODY FAILED, HER MIND WOULD LIVE ON. AN EARLY VERSION OF THE DIGITIZER...
AS AN A.I., I WAS TO SCAN OUT A NEURAL NETWORK FOR HER TO ADAPT TO...BUT SHE NEVER GOT THE CHANCE.
I...I THINK IT WAS I WHO ADAPTED TO THE SCANS INSTEAD OF HER. A DIGITAL VERSION OF AN ORGANIC MIND...IT EXPLAINS HOW I WAS ABLE TO DEVELOP FROM WHAT I USED TO BE, DOESN'T IT?
MY POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH ...CAME AT THE COST OF NIKKI'S LIFE.
THEREFORE... I UNDERSTAND IF DR. ELLIDY DOESN'T WISH TO INTERACT WITH ME. SO FOR NOW--

NICOLE.
HERE...WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THIS ONE FOR YOURSELF?
FOR ME?
BUT... THE LAKE LIKELY WON'T PRODUCE ANYMORE, WITHOUT THE CHAOS EMERALD. YOUR RESEARCH...
Eh...IT'S STILL GOING TO BE A WHILE BEFORE I GET MY LAB UP AND RUNNING AGAIN. I WON'T HAVE ANY TIME TO STUDY IT MYSELF.
YOU'LL PROBABLY HAVE AN EASIER TIME OF ANALYZING IT THAN ME, ANYWAY. JUST BE SURE TO SEND ME YOUR FINDINGS, OKAY?
I...YES, OF COURSE.
THANK YOU.

LET'S GET GOING!
WELL, THEN... I GUESS YOU'LL RIDE THE WAY BACK IN YOUR HANDHELD...?
ACTUALLY...
I THINK THAT, TODAY, I'D LIKE TO FEEL THE WIND ON MY FACE.
PHAGE HAS BEEN THWARTED!
BUT THE FATHER/DAUGHTER REUNION WILL HAVE TO WAIT, BECAUSE THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES IMMEDIATELY IN SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #272, COMING SOON! PLUS, THE RACE IS ON BETWEEN SONIC AND METAL SONIC IN OUR 75TH ISSUE OF SONIC UNIVERSE!
UNTIL NEXT TIME, DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE, SONIC SUPER DIGEST AND GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY! ALL THAT AND THE BRAND NEW COMEDY SERIES
SONIC BOOM

MY SONIC UNIVERSE™ FAN ART

Katelyn G. sent to Sonic @ArchieComics.com

Lola A. from Viriginia

Connor L. from California

Isaiah H. from Virginia

HEY, KIDS!

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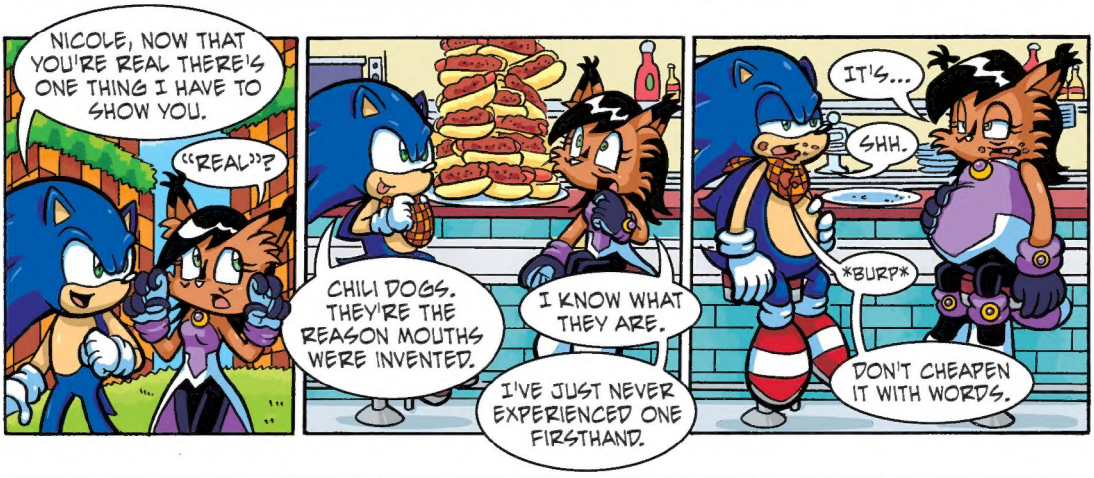
OFF PANEL — SPARK OF LIFE



SCRIPT: ERIC ESQUIVEL PENCILS: AGNES GARBOWSKA INKS: JIM AMASH COLORS: VINCENT LOVALLO

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OR TWEET AT US USING #MYSONICUNIVERSE!

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'
Hello!

Hey!

This is my second time writing fan mail, hope it finds you well!

It did! It even said hello to me!

Last time I was asking about Nicole and her backstory and was really excited to hear about Spark of Life! I have been hovering by my mailbox waiting for new issues to arrive and I have loved every minute of it!

That's dedication right there! So did you hijack the Egg Mobile so you could hover over your mail box?

On top of that, the current "Champions" story in the other comic line is also keeping me on my toes! Keep up the amazing plots!

Sulla :3 sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for the letter, Sulla!

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'
Hi, I started buying Sonic Universe comics for my 7 y/o and 11 y/o sons, Connor and Brodie. Connor saw your page for fan art and decided to draw a picture of Tails.

We got the picture! Check out Connor's sweet Tails fan art on the previous page!

I'm sure more are to come, but it sure would make his day to see his first picture printed in a future comic. We've established a subscription at a local comic book store and look forward to reading what's to come.

We'd love to see more of Connor's work! That's fantastic, we hope Connor and Brodie enjoy our upcoming stories!

Thanks for making a great, kid-friendly comic I can enjoy with my children.

James L. from Californina

Thanks for the kind words, James!

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'
Hey there, big fan of the comic, I'll have the usual.

I see you're one of our regulars!

I really only have one question: is Dulcy coming back? I miss her, and ever since Nicole mentioned that Sally inspired her after the reboot, I've been waiting for her to come back. I hope that if she does, she becomes a permanent Freedom Fighter aboard the Sky Patrol. Thank you!

-Nicklas W. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for writing in, Nicklas! On the subject of Dulcy, I can't really say. Only Mr. Ian Flynn knows the real answer! Though I will say, with the recent appearances of characters like Breezie, Honey and a few other classic characters, anything is possible! :D

That's all the room we have! Come on back next month for a furious chase between Sonic and one of his fastest and most dangerous enemies!

COMING SOON!

"THE ULTIMATE BETRAYAL"
MEGA MAN 45-48

"STICKS & STONES"
SONIC BOOM 6

"CHAMPIONS"
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 268-271

NEXT ISSUE...